



**MAIDEN GULLY PRIMARY SCHOOL
PARENT INFORMATION AFTERNOON
Graduate Team - Grade 6
3:45pm – Monday 22nd February 2010**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to Grade 6 for 2010. The Grade 6 staff this year are Jodie Bates, Ash Graham and Karly Scanlon and we are collectively known as the "Graduate Team". The following information explains some aspects of the programs we will be covering during the year.

CURRICULUM AREAS

In 2010 Maiden Gully Primary continues to expand on our curriculum using the Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS). Reports to parents this year will be the same as 2009 to include all areas of the VELS curriculum.

The **Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS)** has three core, interrelated strands,

1. Physical, Personal and Social Learning
2. Discipline-based Learning
3. Interdisciplinary Learning

The Physical, Personal and Social Learning strand ensures that students develop as people who take increasing responsibility for their own physical wellbeing, their own learning, their own relationships with others and their role in the local, national and global community.

Within the Physical, Personal and Social Learning strand the learning domains are:

Health and Physical Education

Interpersonal Development

Personal Learning

Civics and Citizenship

(VELS website: <http://vels.vcaa.vic.edu.au/essential/personal/index.html>).

The Discipline-based Learning strand contains the following learning domains of:

The Arts

English

Humanities (Economics, Geography, History)

Mathematics

Science

(VELS website: <http://vels.vcaa.vic.edu.au/essential/discipline/index.html>).

The Interdisciplinary Learning strand identifies a range of knowledge, skills and behaviours which cross disciplinary boundaries and are essential to ensuring students are prepared as active learners and problem-solvers for success at school and beyond. This strand focuses on ways of thinking, communicating, conceiving and realising ideas and information. It assists students to develop the capacity to design, create and evaluate processes as a way of developing creativity and innovation.

Within the Interdisciplinary Learning strand the learning domains are:

Communication

Design, Creativity and Technology

Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

Thinking

(website: <http://vels.vcaa.vic.edu.au/essential/interdisciplinary/index.html>).

ENGLISH

English will include activities to encourage skill development in reading, oral language, listening, vocabulary and writing conventions.

Reading – It is very important that the good reading habits children have acquired are continued. **This means reading daily.** As the year progresses, children will be encouraged to read a variety of literature forms. Part of the program includes discussion of the forms of literature, including online text. Reading at school may include oral and silent reading, comprehension, ie. retelling a story, interpreting a story, drawing conclusions, speculating/predicting, sequencing and character studies.

Oral Language and Listening Skills – Speaking and being able to pose relevant questions and carry on a conversation are vitally important tools for use not just at school but in the wider community. As such your child is given opportunities to take part in speaking forums both within the classroom and within the wider school community. With the introduction of our own radio station we are hoping to see a wider number of children showcasing their skills. Listening is a vitally important element in the successful completion of most activities. As a team we are concentrating on the ability to actively listen and respond. Presentation of news items, book reports, whole grade, group and partner discussions, two minute talks and participation in plays and debates are all aspects of the oral language program.

Writing – Children will be given the opportunity to write in a variety of genre, particularly using functional language, e.g.

Arguments - debates, letters to the editor, advertisements, making comparisons, etc.

Informative reports – news, science and weather reports, factual texts.

Narrative – imaginary stories, myths, legends, adventure, fables.

Recounts - letters, journal, recount of trips, excursions, performance.

Explanations – (how or why) mechanical explanations, natural explanations.

Instructions. – recipes, experiments, rules of games, directions, craft instructions.

The writing program is divided into two distinct areas: Authorial – where your child constructs texts across a variety of genre (types) and Secretarial where spelling, grammar and handwriting is addressed. The authorial writing program is broken into modelled, shared, guided and independent writing sessions. There is an expectation that the children will revise their work and seek to improve identified areas (during conference) before completing a writing piece. The teaching of strategies to spell unknown words and the consolidation of specific digraphs and patterns are addressed as part of the spelling program.

MATHEMATICS

Children's skills will continue to be developed and extended, with a focus on Number. Our planning focus follows the work of Michael Ymer (Numeracy Consultant). We are following his planning format to ensure we cover the various topics in a sequential order, whilst continuing to build on previous knowledge.

Space – interpreting, drawing and making, locations, shapes, transformation.

Number – numbers, counting and numeration, mental computation and estimation, written computation, applying numbers, number patterns and relationships.

Measurement, Chance and Data – choosing units, measuring, estimating, time, chance, posing questions and collecting data, summarizing and presenting data, interpreting data.

Structure - use Venn diagrams and tables to test the validity of statements, create number sequences, understand multiplication and division forms and solve equations using words and numbers.

Working Mathematically - problem posing, solving & investigating, modelling & applying and mathematical reasoning. Examples include using calculators, geometric instruments, databases, mathematical terms, symbols and notations to assist in explaining their understandings.

VELS Delivery - is based on integrated units and we have commenced with the unit "Australia". To complement our curriculum, we endeavour to offer students a variety of interest based activities.

STUDENT CENTRED LEARNING

As part of our ongoing commitment to educational excellence our Graduate Team is shifting its teaching focus from “teacher directed”, to an emphasis on student centred learning, which is a joint undertaking between students and teachers. We are moving away from the traditional “1 teacher: 25 students” to a combined, team teaching role. This will involve our classroom's physical structure changing to allow a transition to new learning spaces that support the student centred learning model. We are endeavouring to create such an environment to enhance your child's learning. We will be team teaching in Rooms 10, 11 and 12 - utilising the large learning space for the Grade 6 classes in Rooms 11 and 12, with the additional space in Room 10. The set up of the rooms has been separated into different learning areas, allowing for whole class discussions, individual work spaces, small group work spaces and teacher directed work spaces. Over the past few years we have visited Wooranna Park Primary School and Silverton Primary School in Melbourne, which hosts a similar style of education for their students, offering a variety of learning spaces to cater for individual learning styles. Please visit <http://www.silverton-ps.vic.edu.au/> to gain an understanding of some of the areas we have begun and will continue incorporating in our curriculum at Maiden Gully Primary School. Some of the areas we have explored include: a radio station, video/editing opportunities, and more student-choice in what they are learning about. This supports and compliments our extensive English and Maths curriculum which all children undertake in Grade 6.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) and Netbooks

The students in Grade 6 are fortunate to be able to use a Netbook to compliment and support our curriculum. The Netbooks are a wonderful tool to continue learning beyond the classroom. Please remember to ensure your Lease Agreement and Payment have been brought to the office – no student will be able to take their Netbook home until these have been brought to school. The Netbook, while under the care of the students, is the property of Maiden Gully Primary School and as such needs to be returned to the school at the end of 2010 in its original condition. The expectation at home is that the Netbook is for the Grade 6 student's use only – however, we encourage our students to share with family members the learning opportunities they have been using it for in class. Students are also timetabled for ICT sessions each week to ensure equitable access to our excellent and expanding computer facilities. An example is the “green screen” we have installed, which will be used to help create movies.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

An integral part of this domain is the development of well rounded, independent, caring and responsible students. The school uses the You Can Do It program to develop these traits in our students. You Can Do It! Education's main purpose is to support communities, schools, and homes in a collective effort to optimise the social, emotional, and academic outcomes of all young people. YCDI's focus is on building social, emotional, and motivational capacity of young people rather than on their problems and deficits. It encourages prevention, promotion, and intervention efforts (school, home and community) in order to build the social and emotional strengths of young people. Throughout 2010 we will also be introducing “Circle Time” – an opportunity for students to share issues that may be concerning them within the classroom or outside in the yard. We also provide the opportunity for our Grade 6 students to be Peer Mediators in the playground at fruit break and lunch play times. They are powerful role models to their peers about how to sort out an issue amongst friends.

VISUAL ARTS

The Arts fosters creative thinkers who can generate and communicate ideas and help prepare students for the challenges of the 21st Century in our complex and rapidly changing world. Learning through the arts has significant effects on learning in other domains. Integrating with classroom activities further enhances experiences. 2010 arts experiences will include work on textiles and Australia in Term 1; furthering our Indigenous Australian studies will be supported by a dancing performance troupe at the end of Term 1. Other major cultures study will be Egypt. Ms. Harkin also organises Performing Arts

productions that support our curriculum. Grade 6 students have a one hour session of The Arts each week; a smock is required for these lessons.

LIBRARY

Library borrowing is part of each grade's timetable. This will include borrowing library books for personal reading, research for projects and how best to utilise the available resources. The library is open before school from 8:30, between 11.30-12pm and after school from 3:30 – 3:45pm. Mrs. Maunder will be co-ordinating the Premiers Reading Challenge. We encourage all Grade 6 students to participate in the Challenge to celebrate their nightly reading.

HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Mr Byers – one sixty minute weekly session. This will include "Movement and Physical Activity" and "Health Knowledge & Promotion".

LITERACY: POETRY

Vicki Redwood is adding value to our Literacy program through a 30 minutes poetry lesson weekly for all Grade 6 students.

REPORTING FORMAT

Parents will be issued with a mid and end of year written report. Parent/Teacher Interviews will be held in June, Term 2. Please feel free to contact your child's teacher if you have concerns at other times. (Teachers have meetings on Monday and Tuesday after school, so it would be appreciated if these times were avoided).

GUIDELINES TO ASSIST WITH ORGANISATION HOMEWORK

We are currently reviewing our homework policy. At this stage, the homework expectation is to be reading nightly for approximately 20 minutes and write the title in their diary, and have it signed by a parent/guardian. Once our Netbooks are available, we will incorporate their use with some weekly tasks to be completed at home.

DIARY

Diaries can be used to record Home Reading, forthcoming events, work requirements and for communication between home and school. Individual classroom teachers implement specific systems with the Student Diary, so please ensure that your child is sharing their diary with necessary information.

GRADE 6 UNIFORM

Again this year we have provided the opportunity for you to purchase, in conjunction with the parents club, a Year 6 graduation t-shirt. These are expected to arrive at school soon.

DISCIPLINE

Our class Discipline Policy includes negotiated rules and expectations. The school playground Welfare/Discipline Policy is continually being refined to help provide a safe, happy, non-threatening environment for all pupils. Our Grade 6 Peer Mediators assist in fruit break and lunchtimes and are another contact point for students to ensure they enjoy the outside aspect of their learning day.

ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

ROBO-CUP COMPETITION

This is held annually in Term 3. Children have the opportunity to be selected in a team to represent Maiden Gully.

R.A.C.V. ENERGY BREAKTHROUGH – Grade 6

An exciting program for Grade 6 children which is held annually in Maryborough, late November. The selection of riders is based on fitness/endurance tests, along with commitment to homework and their general behaviour inside and outside the classroom. Training for the Breakthrough continues throughout

the year and includes night training. Preparing for the Breakthrough involves Grade 5/6 students in activities which include – promoting the team, gaining sponsorship, assisting fundraising, designing team logos, healthy eating, etc. An excursion for all non-competing students is proposed for the Friday of the event.

MUSIC: GUITAR

Students in Grade 6 have the opportunity to learn Guitar with Leigh Turner. Sessions have begun this term and we look forward to seeing what they learn during their small group lessons. We trust those students involved will be regularly practicing at home!

CAMPS

Grade 6 camp will be at Phillip Island – the date is to be confirmed, but will be during the second half of the year (estimated cost \$270). Parents wishing to join us on either camp need to fill in a form when the initial notes come home.

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE, 2010.

Students in Grade 6 who receive EMA will have this paid toward their Grade 6 Camp.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

This year students from Grade 6 will be elected to form the 2010 Student Government. Student Government will meet on a regular basis, organise activities for the school as well providing input into the Maiden Gully School Council. All students in the grade will be members of the sub committees that make up the Student Government. The focus is for the students to set agendas and run the meetings.

PREPARATION FOR PUBERTY – Grade 6

Debbie Hughes, the Bendigo Primary School District Nurse conducts this program in Term 4. Parents may attend an information night to find out further details on the program. Parental permission is required for students to participate in the program. We also offer a Grade 5/6 "Girls Only" session to complement this program and to support our female students.

GRADE 6 GRADUATION

A format for the evening will be decided on later in the year by Grade 6 Staff.

TRANSITION for Grade 6 Students

Throughout the year, students and parents will be informed of programs to assist Grade 6 pupils make a smooth transition from Primary to Secondary education. This will include student placement procedures, Familiarisation Days, Parent Information Nights and an Orientation Day in December. We actively encourage all Grade 6 pupils to participate in these positive, informative programs.

We look forward to working with you during the year to help your child complete a productive and fulfilling year.

Many thanks,

Graduate Team

Jodie Bates
Ash Graham
Karly Scanlon


Leadership Team

Principal - David Hinton
Assistant Principal - John Bloomfield
Leading Teacher - Jeldee Trahair

Specialist Staff

Neil Byers (Health and P.E.)
Marg Harkin (Visual Arts –
incorporating Performing Arts)
Vicki Redwood (Literacy: Poetry)

OUR CLASS BLOG...

 Maiden Gully Primary School - Class of 2010


Maiden Gully Primary School – Class of 2010

Just another globalteacher.org.au weblog


February 7, 2010

Remembering Black Saturday

Filed under: Uncategorized — Ash @ 2:16 am



OUR CLASS WIKI...

**mymaidengully**

★ Australia Project

PAGE

DISCUSSION

HISTORY


NOTIFY ME

jodiempgs · My Wikis · My Account

New Page

Recent Changes

Manage Wiki

Search 


Home


Australia Project

Surveys

Wall Wisher

YCDI

**AshGraham**
edit navigation

**jodiempgs**

Here are some websites you might find useful to help your project. . .

<http://primeministers.naa.gov.au/>

www.australianhistory.org/ausexplorers.php

<http://www.teachers.ash.org.au/imresources/achievers/explorers.html>

<http://www.aussieeducator.org.au/reference/general/famousaustralians/>

www.davidreilly.com/australian_explorers/

<http://nineonnetwo.wordpress.com/significant-indigenous-australians/>

<http://adbonline.anu.edu.au/adbonline.htm>

Specific people. . .

<http://www.girl.com.au/cathyfreeman.htm>

OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE...

The screenshot displays the Maiden Gully Primary School website. At the top, a navigation bar includes links for Home, Contact Us, Links, Privacy Policy, and a search bar. The main banner features the school's name and a tagline. Below this, a 'MAIN MENU' provides quick access to various school-related pages. The 'LATEST NEWS' section highlights a recent event, while the 'POPULAR' section lists frequently accessed resources. A 'Student Webmail' section is also present, along with a 'Building Futures' success story. The footer contains copyright information for 2009.

Home **Contact Us** **Links** **Privacy Policy** **search...** **NEWSFLASH**

WELCOME TO MAIDEN GULLY PRIMARY SCHOOL
Challenging Children to Achieve

MAIN MENU

- Home
- About Us
- Calendar
- Outside School Care
- Grade Prep & 1
- Grade 2 & 3
- Grade 4 & 5
- Grade 6
- Forms for Parents
- Newsletters
- Annual Reports
- Enrolment Enquiries
- Student Wellbeing
- Online Lunch Order
- Solar Generator

LATEST NEWS

- Grade 6 Wiki...
- Grade 6 - Term 1, 2010
- More sea stars
- Sea Stars
- Maths Games

POPULAR

- Grade 2/3 Websites
- Endangered Animals- created by students
- Leadership Opportunities for Gr. 6!
- Maths Games
- Websites

Student Webmail Click Here

POLLS

What did you do on the school holidays?

- Went to the movies.
- Went on a holiday.
- Went to the zoo.
- Stayed home.

Vote **Results**

WHO'S ONLINE

"Building Futures' Success"
 Written by Administrator
 Friday, 09 October 2009
 The school has been notified by the Minister of Education that our 'Building Futures' Stage 2 application was successful. We can now proceed to Master Planning for the replacement of the portable classrooms with new state of the art classrooms. Also included will be a staff and administration upgrade. More details shortly!
 Last Updated (Friday, 09 October 2009)

New \$3million Gymnasium

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